

In the Claims:

1-14. (Cancelled):

15. (Currently Amended): A method for allowing a user having a weight within an anticipated range of user weights to select a ski having suitable characteristics to match the weight of the user, the method comprising the steps of:

defining a set of user weight ranges, said user weight ranges being defined so as to collectively map onto the anticipated range of user weights;

establishing a set of ~~non-alphanumeric pictorial symbols~~geometric shapes, each of which corresponds to one of said user weight ranges;

providing a collection of skis which are sorted into groups, each of the skis in a particular group having performance characteristics suitable for users having weight which falls within a particular one of said user weight ranges;

providing a set of ski indicia matched in visual appearance with said ~~non-alphanumeric pictorial symbols~~geometric shapes;

associating the ski indicia with each ski in the group of skis having performance characteristics suitable for users having a weight which falls within the one of said user weight ranges that corresponds to the one of said ~~non-alphanumeric pictorial symbols~~geometric shapes which matches that particular one of the ski indicia;

assessing the weight of the user without publicly providing a common numeric indication of weight or mass;

assigning said assessed user weight into an appropriate one of said user weight ranges and identifying to the user the one of said ~~non-alphanumeric pictorial symbols~~geometric shapes which corresponds to the one of said user weight ranges into which said assessed user weight is assigned; and

selecting a pair of skis associated with ski indicia which match said identified one of said ~~non-alphanumeric pictorial symbols~~geometric shapes.

16. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 15 wherein said step of assessing the weight of the user further comprises the step of:

providing a known weight of the user; and

further wherein said step of assigning said assessed user weight and identifying the corresponding one of said ~~non-alphanumeric pictorial symbols~~geometric shapes further comprises the steps of:

providing a reference chart marked with the limits of each of said weight ranges and with said corresponding ~~non-alphanumeric pictorial symbols~~geometric shapes for each of said user weight ranges;

comparing the known weight of the user to said marked limits to determine within which of said user weight ranges the known weight of the user falls; and

using said reference chart to identify the one of said ~~non-alphanumeric pictorial symbols~~geometric shapes which corresponds to said determined weight range.

17. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 15 wherein said step of assessing the weight of the user comprises the step of:

weighing the user on a weighing station; and

further wherein said step of assigning said assessed user weight and identifying the corresponding one of said ~~non-alphanumeric pictorial symbols~~geometric shapes further comprises the step of:

displaying on the weighing station the one of said ~~non-alphanumeric pictorial symbols~~geometric shapes that corresponds to the one of said user weight ranges which includes the weight of the user.

18. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 15 wherein the step of establishing a set of encrypted user weight indicators is done such that said ~~non-alphanumeric pictorial symbols~~geometric shapes for each of said user weight ranges corresponds to a sub-range of that particular user weight range, and

further wherein said step of assigning said assessed user weight and identifying the corresponding one of said ~~non-alphanumeric pictorial symbols~~geometric shapes further comprises the step of:

if none of said encrypted user weight indicators corresponds to said assessed user weight, providing a query to the user to aid in selecting an appropriate one of said ~~non-alphanumeric pictorial symbols~~geometric shapes.

19. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 18, wherein said step of assessing the weight of the user further comprises the step of:

providing a known weight of the user; and

further wherein said step of assigning said assessed user weight and identifying the corresponding one of said ~~non-alphanumeric pictorial symbols~~geometric shapes further comprises the steps of:

providing a reference chart marked with the limits of each of said weight ranges and with said corresponding ~~non-alphanumeric pictorial symbols~~geometric shapes for each of said user weight ranges;

comparing said known weight of the user to said marked limits to determine within which of said user weight ranges said known weight of the user falls; and

using said reference chart to identify the one of said ~~non-alphanumeric~~  
~~pictorial-symbols~~geometric shapes which corresponds to said determined  
weight range.

20. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 18, wherein said step of assessing the  
weight of the user further comprises the step of:

weighing the user on a weighing station; and

further wherein said step of assigning said assessed user weight and identifying the  
corresponding one of said ~~non-alphanumeric~~ ~~pictorial-symbols~~geometric shapes  
further comprises the step of:

displaying on the weighing station the one of said ~~non-alphanumeric~~ ~~pictorial~~  
~~symbols~~geometric shapes that corresponds to the one of said user weight  
ranges which includes the weight of the user.

21. (Previously Presented): A ski selection system comprising:

-a plurality of differing skis having differently colored labels thereon each having a  
designated color corresponding to one of a plurality of ranges of user weights  
suitable for each of the plurality of skis, the ranges of user weights spanning  
multiple weight measuring units;

a scale including

a mechanism for obtaining a reading proportional to the weight of the user;  
and

an indicator coupled to the mechanism and bearing differently colored regions  
corresponding to the colored labels, the mechanism actuating the indicator  
proportionally to the reading to indicate a selection of one of the colored  
regions corresponding to the weight of the user.

22. (Previously Presented): The ski selection system of claim 21, wherein the indicator includes a face and a pointer, the face having the colored regions secured thereto.

23. (Previously Presented): The ski selection system of claim 22, wherein the indicator face includes colored regions corresponding to colored labels for a plurality of series of skis.

24. (Previously Presented): The ski selection system of claim 22, wherein the indicator face includes at least one intermediate zone between colored regions.

25-27. (Cancelled):

